



**McGregor W. Scott**  
United States Attorney  
Eastern District of California

**NEWS RELEASE**

*Sacramento*  
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100  
Sacramento CA 95814  
Tel (916) 554-2700  
TTY (916) 554-2855

*Fresno*  
2500 Tulare St., Suite 4401  
Fresno, CA 93721  
Tel (559) 497-4000  
TTY (559) 497-4500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**August 24, 2006**

Contact: Patty Pontello, 916-554-2706

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae)

**DEFENDANT SENTENCED IN \$1.4 MILLION SCHEME**  
**TO DEFRAUD CALIFORNIA EDD**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that DAVID NUNEZ MALDONADO, indicted in a scheme to defraud the California Employment Development Department (EDD) of unemployment benefits, has been sentenced to federal prison.

MALDONADO, 47, of Ukiah, was sentenced today by United States District Judge David F. Levi to 51 months in federal prison and was ordered to pay \$1.4 million in restitution to EDD. The defendant pleaded guilty to mail fraud on April 20, 2006.

This case is the product of an extensive/joint investigation by the EDD Investigation Division, the United States Postal Inspection Service, and Ukiah Police.

A federal grand jury indicted MALDONADO in October 2004 along with co-defendants Guadalupe Maria Luna, 32, and Fernando Trejo Damian, 26, both from Ukiah. Luna was sentenced on August 17 to 26 months in federal prison, and Damian will be sentenced on August 31.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Matthew Stegman, who prosecuted the case, the defendants defrauded EDD of over \$1.4 million by obtaining payroll lists from personnel offices and other sources, and then filing fraudulent unemployment claims with EDD by telephone posing as individuals who had been laid off from their jobs. The unemployment checks would then be sent to post office boxes rented by the defendants and others.

###